

| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 09/463,565 | HASHIMOTO ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Gentle E. Winter | 1746 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to paper of 22 January 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are Claims 1-5, 9, 10, and 13-25, renumbered as 1-20.
3. The drawings filed on 27 January 2000 including amendment are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Withdrawal of Finality

1. In paper 111703 applicant made a preliminary amendment to the instant application. The amendment was not considered. Applicant requested a withdrawal of the holding of finality. The amendment and relevant associated arguments have placed the application in position for allowance. Therefore, the request is moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102--Withdrawn

2. Claims 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,759,805 to Saruwatari et al. Applicant persuasively argued that the layer of electrode active material is on the oxide layer. Applicant credibly asserted that a wetting agent cannot perform the role of an electrode active material.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102--Withdrawn

3. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 4,105,511 to Nikaido et al. Applicant credibly argued that the electrolyte of Nikaido cannot be substituted for the electrode active material of the invention and that the invention could not work if such a substitution were made.

4. Claims 1-5, 9-10, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,153,337 to Carlson et al. Applicant credibly argued that the layer structure of Carlson is: Substrate:Boehmite:Cathode while the present invention is: Substrate:Cathode:Boehmite and that the layer structures are not interchangeable.

Applicants' arguments are considered persuasive with respect to claim 14 for the reason indicated above.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-5, 9, 10, and 13-25, renumbered as 1-20
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 3. United States Patent No. 4,759,805 to Saruwatari et al. is distinguished from the instant claims in that a wetting agent cannot perform the role of the claimed electrode active material.
 1. The electrolyte of Nikaido cannot be substituted for the electrode active material of the invention and that the invention could not work if such a substitution were made.
 2. The layer structure of Carlson is: Substrate:Boehmite:Cathode while the present invention is: Substrate:Cathode:Boehmite the layer structures are not interchangeable.
 3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

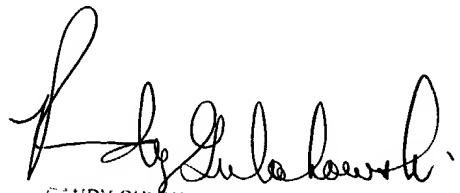
1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gentle E. Winter whose telephone number is (571) 272-1310. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00-3:30.

2. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy P. Gulakowski can be reached on (571) 272-1302. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

3. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 273-1310.

Gentle E. Winter
Examiner
Art Unit 1746

March 23, 2004



RANDY GULAKOWSKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700